

A
PRAYER BOOK,
FOR THE
USE OF FAMILIES;
PREPARED BY THE
ASSOCIATION OF MINISTERS
ON
PISCATAQUA-RIVER,
AND
RECOMMENDED BY THEM
AS AN
ASSISTANT TO THE SOCIAL DEVOTIONS
OF
FAMILIES.

PRINTED BY CHARLES PEIRCE, AT THE ORACLE-
PRESS, NO. 5, DANIEL-STREET, PORTSMOUTH, N. H.
SOLD BY HIM AT THE COLUMBIAN BOOK-
STORE, ALSO, BY MANY BOOKSELLERS
IN THE UNITED STATES.

JULY 1799.

PRAYER BOOK.

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REPORTED BY THE

MINISTERS OF DEFENSE



SECRET

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TABLE NO. 1. DAILY AVERAGE, NORTH MOUTH, N. H.

OLD ST. JOHN AT THE COLUMBIAN BOOK

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IN THE UNITED STATES

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INTRODUCTION.

To the Heads of Families in our respective Towns & Parishes.

Dearly beloved Friends,

WITH sensible concern we observe the declining state of practical religion, the prevalence of error, vice and infidelity, and the consequent neglect of the duties of piety, justice, mercy and truth. And it is not the least cause of our concern, that there are many in our respective towns and parishes, as we have reason to think, who live in the habitual neglect of family prayer, and instruction, notwithstanding their solemn engagements to God when they dedicated their children to him in the holy ordinance of baptism, that they would instruct them in the knowledge of true religion, and inculcate upon them, by their precepts and example, their duty to fear, serve, and glorify their creator.

The common plea, which even thinking, serious persons make to excuse themselves in the neglect of family prayer is their want of resolution, and a sufficient acquaintance with language to address the infinite majesty of heaven before their families

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in expressions suitable to the solemn occasion, and adapted to the use of edification.

To remove this objection, and to leave all who shall hereafter continue in the neglect of so reasonable a service inexcusable, we present and recommend to you for daily use in your families the following forms of prayer, which we have endeavored should be as short and comprehensive as is consistent with perspicuity, that none may be tired with their length, and because our words should be few, when creatures in our circumstances, whose foundation is in the dust, and who dwell in houses of clay, address our prayers to a Being of incomprehensible majesty and glory, whose throne is in the heavens, exalted far above all principalities and powers.

In these forms of prayer we have avoided, we hope, vain repetitions, sensible that our Father in heaven knows all our wants and desires before we ask him, and is ever ready, of his abundant goodness, to grant all our requests which are agreeable to his will, for the sake of Christ.

We have made use chiefly of scripture expressions and allusions as best adapted to inform the understanding, and warm the heart.

In this collection, you will observe, there are forms of evening and morning prayers for every day in the week, that from this variety you may select for daily use those which best suit your capacities, taste and judgment; Besides, are added forms to be used on special occasions, adapted to the particular circumstances of families, and extraordinary events of providence.

In using these forms, we take the liberty to recommend to you to set apart a stated hour, in the morning and evening of every day, to assemble
your

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your families, and after reading a portion of the word of God, to pronounce the prayer you shall chuse for the occasion, standing or kneeling in a deliberate, serious, solemn manner, such as will have a tendency to impress them with a reverence of that infinite Being you are addressing, and so that all who join with you may say Amen to your devotions.

You cannot, we think, be prejudiced against using forms of prayer, if you consider, that not only Calvin and the other reformers, and the primitive apostolic churches used forms in their worship, after miraculous gifts had ceased in the church, but that Jesus Christ hath left on record a comprehensive form of prayer for the direction of his disciples in all their addresses at the throne of grace,

However, in recommending to you the use of forms of prayer, we would not be understood, as if it is our meaning, that you shall confine yourselves to forms; to these we have prepared for your use, or to any other forms, however excellent. The use of forms will soon overcome your natural timidity so that you will feel a freedom to offer up petitions and praises in your own words, dictated by a sense of pressing trials and signal mercies.

And now, beloved friends, we intreat and beseech you by the mercies of God, by the love of a Saviour, and the duty you owe to the immortal souls committed by him to your immediate care, to take the subject of this address into serious consideration, and without delay, begin the practice of a duty you have too long neglected,—and we cannot but hope you will be convinced of the reasonableness and expediency of family prayer, and be induced to practise it, if you consider,

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1. That the daily practice of this duty in your families is founded in the relation you bear to God as his reasonable creatures; your necessary dependence on him for being, life, and all things you need; the obligations of gratitude you are under to him as your preserver and benefactor, and the regard you owe to the souls committed to your care.

It is a dictate of nature, to seek to those on whom we depend for a supply of our wants, and for help in times of need; to acknowledge with gratitude the favors conferred upon us, and to give to them the honor which is their due.

If you received your daily bread, and every necessary of life, from the liberality of a generous friend, would not a sense of your dependence on him, and a persuasion of his ability and readiness to afford you needed assistance, lead you in all your wants and distresses to seek to him for help? and would not gratitude dispose you to thank him for his favors, and to behave toward him in a manner expressive of your inward sense of obligation? But are not our obligations to our almighty benefactor as much greater than any we can be under to our fellow creatures as he is superior to them in goodness, and every perfection and excellence? are you not indebted to his unmerited goodness for your being as well as for every blessing you enjoy? Is not he the father of your spirits, and the maker of your bodies? Hath he not nourished and brought you up, from your early infancy, with a paternal care; protected your lives amidst innumerable dangers; caused the earth to yield her increase year after year for your support, and made the inferior creatures subservient to your comfort and happiness? When you look around you, what one blessing

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blessing is there for which you are not indebted to his mere mercy and the merits and mediation of the redeemer? They all flow to you from his fulness through the mediums he hath appointed. Your own exertions are no more than the means of your support and happiness, and their success depends wholly on his blessing, without which they will be in vain. Benefactors are no more than instruments to supply your wants. If you believe this, must you not be sensible of your peculiar obligation to seek unto him in whom you live and move, and have your being, by prayer and supplication for all you need, and to render to him the due tribute of praise for all you receive, whether more immediately from his hand, or through the instrumentality of creatures?—If he be your father, where is his honor? and if he be your master, where is his fear?

What evidence do you give to your families and to others, that you honor and reverence God while you live in the habitual neglect of prayer and praise to him? and, O, what base, ingratitude is it, for those who are under such great and manifold obligations to the almighty and most merciful benefactor, thus to live without any acknowledgement of him in their families, and to shew less gratitude and sense of religion than the ignorant heathen, who have their household gods to whom they pay daily devotion, and from a belief of their superintendence over human affairs, seek to them in times of extremity for help and deliverance! does not their example loudly bespeak those who live in the neglect of family prayer, in that language of poignant reproof, *arise sleeper and call upon thy God?* and will not they rise up in the day of judgment and condemn you
for

For the neglect of a duty which is so congenial to the dictates of natural religion? Yea, even the animal creation reprove those who live without any acknowledgment of the God who made, preserves and upholds them? The Ox knoweth his owner, and the Ass his masters crib, and in their way express their gratitude to the hand that feeds them; and even the feathered creation, in the vocal praises of their maker and preserver, in their morning and evening songs, seem to reprove prayerless families for their ingratitude and impiety.

2. Consider, that your children, and all who compose your household, are committed by God to your immediate care with that solemn charge, *bring them up for me*, and that you are under the most sacred bonds of duty and affection to them; of gratitude to God who has given and entrusted them to you, and of responsibility to him for the faithful discharge of this trust, to do every thing in your power that they may be educated in a manner suitable to their rational nature, and which may qualify them to answer the end of their being.—Such an education consists in giving them all the strength of body, and improvement of mind, of which they are capable.

The improvement of their minds includes, not only your instructing them in the knowledge of those natural things which is necessary to qualify them for the business of their future callings in life, and to make them useful members of civil society, but chiefly, that you endeavor by all rational means, in your power, to teach them the principles and duties of religion and virtue, and form them to such early habits as will inspire them with a reverence of the name, laws, and authority of the great God, and dispose them to the practice of the duties

duties of piety they owe to him, and of justice, humanity and mercy to their neighbours.

But if you wish that your instructions and precepts may have their proper effect, they must be recommended by your own example, for universal experience teaches that example has a more powerful influence than precept on the minds of children; especially the example of their parents, to whom they naturally look up as their guardians and the guides of their youth, and whose example is of more authority with them than volumes of instructions & precepts; therefore it is not probable that the best instructions will have a good effect upon them unless they are recommended by a correspondent practice. Tho' you should ever so often inculcate upon them practical principles; though you teach them that they ought to fear and serve God, their creator; seek unto him by prayer for all the good things they need, and render praise to him for those they hourly receive at his gracious hand, yet how can you expect your instructions will have their effect on them, if at the same time they never hear you praying to God, nor praising him for his goodness and mercy to you and your's, but observe that you live, year after year, without any acknowledgement of him in your families, and that your time and attention are wholly engrossed by the affairs of the present life, to the neglect of things of a superior nature? Will it not be a natural conclusion in their minds, that your instructions are only words of course which you do not believe yourselves, and that you are like actors on a stage, personating a borrowed character? And will it not probably be the consequence, that they will despise your instruction, and hate your reproof; and thus by your neglect

to enforce your instruction by your example may be the sad occasion of their casting off fear, and restraining prayer before God; treating the momentous concerns of religion and futurity with neglect and indifference and giving their whole attention to the inferior interests of the present life, till death shall seize them in the midst of their security, worldly cares, pursuits and pleasures, unprepared for the awful event, so that their ruin will be owing to your neglect of the duty you owe to them, to teach them by your example as well as precepts to mind religion as the one thing needful, and to fear and serve God.

3. Consider that the time is near at hand when we must all appear before God in the eternal world, to render unto him an account of the improvement of our time, opportunities and talents; how we have performed the duties incumbent upon us in our several stations and relations, and managed the important trusts committed to us in this world: and we ought seriously to consider that he will require at our hands those whom he hath committed to our charge. Let these considerations awaken you to a diligent and faithful discharge of all the duties you owe to those who are under your immediate care, and in particular the duty of exemplifying your instructions by praying with them, that so, if, notwithstanding all your instructions, prayers, counsels and admonitions, they should be drawn into the vortex of sinful pleasure, by the temptations of an ensnaring world, and finally loose their souls, their ruin may not be chargeable to your account in the great day.

In this address we speak to you, beloved friends, in the fulness of our hearts, and from a sensible concern for your future happiness and the happiness

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ness of your children, that, if it shall please God to bless our endeavors, you may be quickened to the diligent use of the means, and the practice of the duties of religion, by which it may be insured to you and to your's.

In this recommendation of family prayer, we are fully convinced that it is the duty of all, whatever their character, to awake from their stupidity and call upon God that they perish not. Yet we speak principally to those heads of families who are regular in their lives and conversations; who have a rational conviction of the truth of religion, the being, perfections and providence of God, their necessary dependence on him for every blessing; their guilt, weakness and misery, and need of his help and mercy, and the reasonableness of their praying to him for needed mercies; but at the same time wish to have some assistance in this duty, that they may perform it in a manner better adapted to edification than extempore unpremeditated prayers. While we inculcate the expediency and reasonableness of family prayer, and offer these helps to the performance of this duty, we intreat your brethren ever to bear in mind that prayer and other instrumental duties are only means which God in his divine wisdom hath appointed, for your obtaining the renewing influence of his spirit to write upon your hearts those two great and comprehensive laws of his moral kingdom, *Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and thy neighbor as thyself*, and hereby to qualify you for the everlasting enjoyment of that kingdom.— Beware then of resting in a form of godliness without the power thereof; if you do, however constant and exemplary you may be in prayer and other positive duties of religion, your hope of future

ture happiness founded on these things will issue in shame, confusion and despair. These things ye ought to do, and not leave the other, justice, mercy and truth, the necessary effects of a principle of divine love in the heart, undone.

We only add our fervent prayers to the Father of lights and mercies, that the happy period may be hastened, which will supercede these helps to devotion, when the spirit of grace and supplication shall be poured out, when they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know ye the Lord; for they shall all know him from the least of them to the greatest; and when prayers and praises to God, dictated by a spirit of pure and fervent devotion, shall ascend before his throne from every family and dwelling place of Mount Zion.

AMEN.

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<i>Samuel Haven, D. D.</i>	<i>Samuel Macclintock, D. D.</i>
<i>John Thompson,</i>	<i>Benjamin Balch,</i>
<i>Joseph Buckminster,</i>	<i>Joseph Haven,</i>
<i>Benjamin Thurston,</i>	<i>James Millmore,</i>
<i>Huntington Porter,</i>	<i>Joseph Litchfield,</i>
<i>Asa Piper,</i>	<i>Robert Gray,</i>
<i>William F. Rowland,</i>	<i>Joseph Langdon,</i>
<i>Samuel Chandler,</i>	<i>Peter Holt,</i>
<i>Jesse Appleton,</i>	<i>Joseph Hilliard,</i>
<i>Jacob Abbot,</i>	<i>Isaac Briggs,</i>
<i>William Briggs,</i>	<i>Roswell Messenger.</i>

A PRAYER

FOR THE MORNING OF THE

L O R D's DAY.

O LORD GOD of hosts, GOD of Israel, the GOD of the spirits of all flesh, unto whom all flesh should come. Thou art a being possessed of all perfection, the only suitable object of religious worship; self-existent, self-sufficient and all-sufficient: who hast life and happiness in thyself, and standest in no need of thy creatures or their best services to add to thine essential glory or felicity. Thou art the Creator, preserver, and governor of the world. Thine, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty, for all that is in heaven, and in the earth is thine. All nations before thee are as nothing, less than nothing, and vanity: Yet, such is thy condescension and grace, that thou esteemest thyself honored by the sincere services which thine intelligent creatures render unto thee. Thou hast made it our inestimable privilege, and our indispensable duty, in every thing, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, to make known our requests unto thee, our GOD; make us sensible of the worth of the privilege, and may we feel our obligation to perform the duty. LORD quicken us to call upon thy name; assist us in our solemn approaches unto thee.

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BUT, wherewith shall we come before the LORD, and bow ourselves before the most high GOD? alas! we have nothing to recommend us, to thy favor; our sins separate between us and our GOD, and render us unworthy of the least mercy. LORD we have reason to blush, and be ashamed to lift up our faces before thee, when we consider our awful apostacy from thee, the dreadful depravity of our nature, and the innumerable transgressions of our lives. O that we may see sin exceeding sinful, abhor ourselves, and repent in dust and ashes.

WE adore that wisdom and goodness, which have provided a Saviour every way adequate to the necessities of apostate man. We thank thee that we, sinful creatures, have an ADVOCATE with the FATHER, in whom thou art ever well pleased; thro' whom we are bid welcome to the Throne of thy GRACE. In his all-prevailing name we desire humbly to approach thee, at this time, and pray for pardon and acceptance for his sake.

—We praise thee, O FATHER of mercies, and GOD of all grace, for the provision thou hast made for carrying into effect thy kind purposes of mercy and grace to the sinful, ruined children of men. We thank thee for thy *glorious gospel* which brings life and immortality to light: that we are indulged with thy written word, which, if properly improved, is able to make us wise unto salvation. May we attend to it as a light to our feet, and a lamp to our paths. We praise thee for the public dispensation of thy word, and holy ordinances.

—We thank thee for the institution of thy holy SABBATH, and for all the means and seasons of grace with which we are indulged.

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WE adore that goodness which has spared us another week, protected us thro' the last night, brought us to behold the light, and favoured us with the privileges of this sacred day. This is the day the LORD hath made, and separated from a common to a sacred use; O that it may be indeed a good day to our souls; that we may remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy; begin and spend, and close the day with GOD; call the Sabbath a delight, the HOLY of the LORD, honorable; and honor thee on thine holy day; not doing our own ways, nor finding our own pleasure, nor speaking our own words. As on this sacred day we commemorate a risen Saviour, may we more and more conform to the design of his resurrection; rising from the death of sin, to newness of life and new obedience. Grant, LORD, that in all our approaches unto thee this day, (whether in public or private) we may realize that we have to do with him who searcheth the heart and trieth the reins of the children of men. — And may we worship thee, in spirit and truth, without distraction, and with true devotion: and whether we read, or hear thy word, may we attend with diligence, with holy reverence, and godly fear, as those that must give an account. LORD grant us the influences of thine holy spirit to render the word powerfully profitable to our souls; to renew and sanctify us; to make us meet for thy use; to witness with our spirits that we are the children of GOD; and O that under his influence we may travel a sabbath day's journey heavenward, and be made more meet for that rest which remaineth for the people of GOD.

AND now LORD, as thou hast made it our duty,

duty, we pray for all men : send forth thy light and thy truth to the dark corners of the earth—enlighten those that sit in darkness, and guide their feet into the way of peace. May the kingdoms of this world, speedily become the kingdoms of our **LORD JESUS CHRIST**—may all the ends of the earth see the salvation of **GOD**.—**LORD** bless and save our land—smile upon and bless the government over us ; pour out thy spirit upon all orders and degrees of men ; make us an holy and happy people. Cloth thy ministers with salvation ; may thy word dispensed this day be the power of **GOD** unto the salvation of many.—Dwell **LORD**, in this town ; suit of thy mercies to the necessities of the poor, the sick, and the afflicted, the sorrowful and distressed ; dwell in every house and in every heart. Delight to dwell under this roof ; may our family be blessed in him, in whom alone all the families of the earth can be blessed. Make us thine here, and hereafter ; thine entirely, and forever, through **JESUS** thy dear **SON**, for whom we bless thee, to whom with the **FATHER**, and the **HOLY SPIRIT**, be glory forever. **AMEN**.



A Prayer for the Lord's-day Evening.

O LORD our GOD : the mighty GOD ;
the everlasting KING ; unto thee would we
lift up our souls : We, who are but dust and ashes,
take upon us to speak unto the Supreme Majesty of
heaven and earth. O LORD, how good art thou,
that thou indulgest us with this privilege of pray-
ing unto thee ; of approaching thee, with the free-
dom of children to a father, with all our wants,
doubts,

doubts, difficulties, perplexities and distresses ; with assurance of audience & acceptance, through the merits and mediation of thy dear SON, if we call upon thee in truth.

WE know not how to order our speech before thee by reason of darkness ; assist us in our addresses unto thee ; grant us thine holy spirit to help our infirmities, to make intercession for us, to quicken us to call upon thy name. Have respect unto the prayer of thy servants, which they pray before thee, at this time ; hearken to the voice of our supplication, O our KING and our GOD ; and may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be now, and at all times, acceptable in thy sight, through JESUS CHRIST, our *strength* and our *Redeemer*. Blessed be GOD for this glorious Saviour, and for all the blessings which flow to us through him, innumerable temporal favours ; but especially spiritual blessings and privileges.

WE praise thee for thy glorious GOSPEL which brings this salvation ; which proclaims pardon and eternal life through JESUS CHRIST ; which proposeth the terms of reconciliation ; lays before us such motives to act like men & christians. LORD may we lament before thee our awful apostacy from thee ; the sad depravity of our nature ; our backwardness to all that is holy and good ; our dreadful propensity to stray from thee ; and that notwithstanding all the care thou hast taken to secure our eternal felicity, we are so unwilling to comply with thy kind and gracious proposals. We adore that mercy which spares us, who deserve to be cut down as cumberers of the ground ; which prolongs our day of grace, continues our space of repentance, exercises patience, long-sufference, and forbearance towards us. May

MAY we be suitably affected with thy goodness, in using a variety of proper means with us, to influence us to attend to the all-important concerns of the soul. We thank thee that we are yet under divine culture in the vineyard of the LORD; that thou art continuing to us the means and seasons of grace; that thou hast added to our lives another day; another Sabbath to our days; favored us with the inestimable privilege of approaching thee in the acts of solemn worship. Follow with thy blessing thine institutions—suffer not the means of grace to be lost upon us. Suffer not thy word to return unto thee void, but may it accomplish the important end designed; be as good seed sown in good ground, bringing forth much fruit; be a favor of life unto life, and not of death unto death. LORD pardon and give repentance for the sins of our holy things: may we lament and be humbled under a sense of our coldness and formality in religion, that in our approaches to thee, whether in public or private, so much worldliness and vanity have attended us. Our hearts have been so little engaged in the solemn duties, that thou mightest justly say, who hath required such offerings at your hands? LORD grant that the blood of JESUS may be applied to our souls, for cleansing from sin and all uncleanness, and may our persons, and sincere (though imperfect) services be graciously accepted through him.

WE pray LORD that we may constantly improve in wisdom and grace, while we enjoy the means of grace; pressing toward perfection in holiness—and becoming more and more meet for that glorious state, where there will be nothing to interrupt or disturb our devotions; where we shall

shall worship thee with the purity of angels, and enjoy thy smiles, and the light of thy countenance forever. LORD bless this family, this town; heal the sick, strengthen the weak, comfort the feebly-minded, supply the wants of the poor, relieve the distressed, reform the vicious and profane, support the aged, be the GOD and guide of the youth.

LET thy glory dwell in our land—pour out thy spirit upon all flesh—and O hasten the glorious day when the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established upon the top of the mountains, and be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it; when the whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

WE desire to commit ourselves to thy gracious care this night, and through the week upon which we have entered—may thy smiles & blessing attend us in all the cares, occasions and concerns of it—carry us safely through time to thine heavenly kingdom, through JESUS thy DEAR SON, for whom we desire forever to praise thee; to whom be glory forever and ever. AMEN.



Morning Prayer.

ALMIGHTY GOD, and everlasting FATHER; self-existent—self glorious—infinately holy, just and true—every where present, and every where good! We believe not only that thou art; but that thou hearest prayer, and art a rewarder of all those who diligently seek thee. We acknowledge our dependence on thee; for thy
favour

favour is *life*—Thou alone canst make us happy. Under every obligation to love and serve *thee*; and encouraged by the kind invitations of mercy, we beg, this morning, to make our united & humble prayer unto *thee*. We dare not approach a holy God, in our own polluted names; but we come, as the disciples of JESUS, and depending on his most powerful and gracious intercession prostrate ourselves at the footstool of thy mercy and pray—“Lord be merciful to us miserable sinners.” We acknowledge our manifold guilt and imperfections. We lament that our understandings are darkened; our wills stubborn and perverse; and all our affections vain and corrupt—thy blessed Image is defaced from our souls; the glory is departed from us. Alas! O LORD, *we have destroyed ourselves*—but, blessed be thy name, *our help is in THEE*.—Thy name is, “the LORD, the LORD GOD, gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, forgiving iniquity transgression and sin.” Thou art in Christ Jesus “reconciling the world to thyself, not imputing to men their trespasses.” Thou hast said, the believing, repenting sinner shall surely be forgiven. LORD, we believe, O help our unbelief. We profess, this morning, repentance of all our sins: Oh! forgive for JESUS sake, and grant us that *Godly sorrow* which worketh repentance unto life, not to be repented of. Inspire us with an irreconcilable hatred of all sin—Oh! may we watch against it, and be delivered from its power. To this end, grant us every christian grace and *amiable* virtue. May we love THEE with all our heart—do justly—love mercy and walk humbly with our GOD. Oh! may we ever do to others what, in change of circumstances, we should

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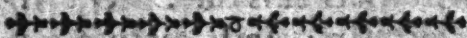
with others to do unto us. We pray that we may be made humble—meek—patient—tender-hearted, and pitiful—may we put on, as the elect of GOD, bowels of kindness & charity, adorning the doctrine of GOD our Saviour with all good works. May we be guarded from all apostacy and hold fast unto the end.

WE now call on our souls and all that is within us to bless thy holy name for all that thou art in thyself, and for thy merciful kindness to all men—for creating goodness—for preserving mercy—above all for redeeming love. We acknowledge, with humble thankfulness, thy careful and gracious hand over us through the watches of the past night: for our ease—sleep, and rest on our beds—for the light of the morning, and all the agreeable circumstances in which thy kind providence has placed us. We bless THEE for our health—for our dear Friends, and every social pleasure—and we thank THEE for the prospect of labor and usefulness this day. O! may we begin this day in thy fear; and maintain a close walk with GOD all the day. May we carry a serious sense of thy *Being*, and thy *universal providence* into all the labors and concerns of the day—and may thy blessing attend our lawful undertakings. May we close the day with the joyful testimony of our consciences, that we have discharged our duty with good fidelity, and be prepared, by thy grace, to offer up the evening sacrifice of prayer & praise.

WE now commend to thy mercy the great family of mankind—may all men come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved. We pray in particular for our nation—Appoint thy salvation instead of walls and bulwarks around us—smile on
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every branch of our civil magistracy. Take into thy holy protection thy servant, the *President* of the United States; and let his life and importance be very precious in thy sight. Bless thy churches—revive religion, and put a speedy stop to infidelity, and conduct us, with thy whole church, through all the changes of time, to thy heavenly kingdom.

AND now, O our GOD, permit us to close the social devotions of this morning in the comprehensive language which the great teacher from heaven has taught us: relying on his intercession, we are encouraged to pray, OUR FATHER, who art in Heaven, Hallowed be thy name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil: For thine is the Kingdom, And the power, And the Glory, For ever and ever. AMEN.



Evening Prayer.

THOU, who art the GOD of our lives, the length of our days, and the great Father of all our mercies: Our times are in thy hand; the number of our days, are with THEE. We, thy dependent, sinful creatures, beg leave, in the name of our only Saviour, and Mediator at thy right hand, to make our humble approach unto THEE, and present our evening sacrifice of prayer and praise. Oh! may our hearts be united in offering sincere and adoring thanks to thee for all

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thy mercies unto us ; mercies highly distinguished by our utter unworthiness of any of them : We praise thy name, particularly, for the mercies of the past day. Blessed be GOD for our continued life—health—ease, and support. We thank *thee* for our daily bread ; for our strength and disposition to perform the various duties and labors of the day : We praise and bless the hand which has granted us any success in our daily labor and cares. We wish ever to provide things honest in the sight of all men. We thank *thee* for all the gracious restraints, and assistances afforded us in the course of the day. We bless *thee* that the shadows of the evening are peaceful to us, and spread over us with much mercy.

NOW, most glorious and blessed GOD ! We are bending the knee before thy mercy seat ; and humbly imploring thy merciful forgiveness of all our sins ; particularly the sins and imperfections of the past day : Alas ! O LORD, that our hearts are so apt to be detached from *thee*—so prone to be divided between *Heaven* and *Earth*. Alas ! that when we would do good, evil is present with us : but we look again to the great Messiah, and humbly pray, we may obtain pardon and complete redemption through his blood, and the sanctifying influences of the holy spirit.

NOW, O most gracious and merciful Father ! we commend ourselves to thy watchful care and keeping this night. The darkness and the light are both alike to *thee*. Let thy gracious eye be attentive to every member of this family. Preserve us and our dwelling from devouring flames—preserve us from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, preserve us from the evil suggestions of satan, and from

all evil—Oh, may our sleep be the sleep thou givest to thy beloved; and our waking moments be employed in communing with *thee*. Refresh'd with ease, sleep and rest, may we awake in the morning and be still with *thee*. And Oh! may our hearts be prepared to enter on the devotions of the morning and the labors and duties of another day.

WITH christian sympathy, and fervent prayer, we now commend to the father of all mercies all those who are on beds of sickness, sorrow and pain. Relieve them, we beseech **THEE**, and grant their souls may find rest in *thee*. We pray for all in distress, of whatever kind—and Oh! let thy free mercies be over all thy works.

Bless we most humbly beseech **THEE**, our civil Fathers—bless all the ministers of thy sanctuary—send and succeed the glorious gospel of salvation every where—accomplish all thy gracious promises; and Oh! let thy kingdom come, and thy will be done on *Earth* as it is in *Heaven*: Now to the King eternal, immortal & invisible, to the only wise **GOD** be rendered all praise ever more. **AMEN.**

A Morning Prayer for a Family.

O THOU, who hearest prayer, unto whom all flesh should come, who hast the words of eternal life. Suffer us, worthless worms of the dust, to bow before thee at this time, and in the all-prevailing name of our once crucified, but now exalted, and interceding redeemer to present unto thee our morning sacrifice of prayer and thanksgiving. May we find it a good thing to draw nigh to thee; to thank and praise thee for

the daily experience we have of thy goodness ; to shew forth thy loving kindness every morning, and thy faithfulness every night. Behold us in thy dear SON and graciously pardon and accept us, for his sake. May we have a grateful sense of thy goodness in protecting us through the silent watches of the night ; quietly refreshing us by sleep ; that we behold the light of this morning, in the enjoyment of so much health, ease, peace, and comfort ; blessed with liberty, religion, a variety of special and distinguishing favours pertaining to this, and a better life.

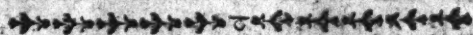
WE pray for thy presence, protection, and blessing this day, in all our undertakings, in all our enjoyments. May we in all our ways acknowledge THEE and be thou pleased to direct our steps—guide us into the way of truth ; assist us in the discharge of every duty ; and restrain us from sinning against THEE.

CONVINCE us of the need we stand in of such a SAVIOUR as thou hast provided ; may we live a life of faith in, dependence upon, and obedience to him : may we walk worthy of the LORD unto all well pleasing ; exercise ourselves to have always a conscience void of offence towards GOD and toward men.

MAY we be humbled under a sense of our past vileness, and labor after that purity of heart, and holiness of life without which no man can see and enjoy GOD, may we ever realize that here we have no continuing city, and the vast importance of religion to render us useful and comfortable while we live, and safe and happy when we die.—LORD enable us by thy grace to act well in every character, capacity, station and relation whi

we live, and ever experience that joy and comfort, which result from the testimony of a good conscience witnessing, that in simplicity and godly sincerity we have had our conversation in the world, and may we die in peace, sleep in JESUS, and be blessed forever. May thy smiles and blessing attend us and ours : all near and dear to us ; this town ; every family and soul in it ; our nation ; the government over it ; thy church universal, and all mankind ; through JESUS CHRIST thy dear SON who has taught us to pray, saying, OUR FATHER which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name ; thy kingdom come ; thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven ; give us this day our daily bread ; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors ; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil ; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

• AMEN.



Evening Prayer.

O LORD our heavenly KING ; our kind and compassionate FATHER, on whom we depend for life and every blessing. Thou art daily loading us with thy benefits ; we have constant and large experience of thy goodness, abundant reason to speak well of thy great and sacred name ; thou renewest thy mercies to us every morning, every evening, every moment, great is thy faithfulness.

WE adore and thank THEE that thou hast made us rational agents, capable of knowing, lov-
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ing, serving and enjoying THEE : made us for this end that we should glorify THEE, and be happy in thy favour and the eternal enjoyment of THEE.

WE have reason to be humble that we are sinful creatures ; have fallen short of the end for which thou hast given us being ; have forfeited thy favour, and become obnoxious to thy wrath.

MAY our souls bless the LORD, for his wonderful work in providing for our salvation through the merits & mediation of his dear SON CHRIST JESUS ; for the gospel which brings us these good tidings of great joy ; that thou art in him reconciling the world unto thyself, not imputing to men their trespasses ; art inviting and encouraging us to come boldly to the throne of thy grace ; to come as children to our heavenly FATHER ; and O that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in all our times of need. Behold O GOD our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed, and through him graciously accept our evening sacrifice of prayer and praise.

MAY we be truly grateful for the mercies of the past, that thou hast secured us from many evils and calamities to which mortals are incident ; that no accident has befallen us, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling ; that we are brought to the close of the day in safety, and have this opportunity of presenting our grateful acknowledgments unto THEE.

MAY we be truly humbled on account of our many sins, whereby we have dishonored & offended thee ; & hazarded the eternal loss of our immortal soul. O that, that precious blood, which was shed for the remission of sins, may be applied to our souls, for pardon and cleansing. For HIS sake have mercy upon us O LORD according to thy loving

loving kindness ; according to the multitude of thy tender mercies, blot out our transgressions.— O our GOD, whatever thou deniest us, deny us not the influences of thine holy spirit to create in us clean hearts, to renew within us right spirits : to form us to a meetness for the glory and felicity of the heavenly world. Make us, we beseech thee, the care of thy kind providence this night ; give thine angels charge concerning us in our sleeping hours ; may we lie down at peace with GOD, with peace of conscience, and in peace with all men ; be quietly refreshed by sleep, awake to behold the light, and to enjoy the comforts of another day, with hearts satisfied with thy goodness, and enlarged with gratitude in thy praises.

GRANT LORD that we may walk with thee while we live ; always act under the influence of the religion of JESUS, and be possess'd of that wisdom which is from above, which is pure, peaceable, gentle, easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits. May we live the lives we live in the flesh, by the faith of the SON of GOD ; a faith which purifieth the heart, worketh by love and produceth obedience. O that we may have joy, peace and comfort in believing ; rejoice in hope of the glory of GOD. And O that we may triumph over the last enemy ; give up our accounts with joy, and be welcomed to the reward of good and faithful servants.

DO for us, for our friends, our enemies, all in affliction, thy church, and all mankind, infinitely more than we can ask or think ; through thy dear SON our only hope ; for whom may our souls forever bless thee ; in HIM grant that we may ever be found, owned and accepted ; to him be glory forever. AMEN.

Morning Prayer.

O THOU, who art the first, and the last, infinitely the greatest, and best of beings—the GOD in whom we live and move and have our being—the GOD and FATHER of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, and in him the GOD of all grace and peace,—THEE we adore,

ASSEMBLED, this morning, at the footstool of thy mercy, we appear as the Disciples of JESUS CHRIST; and in his name beg to present the morning sacrifice of prayer and praise.

THOU art the GOD of the morning, and makest its out goings to rejoice. In the morning shalt thou hear our voice—in the morning will we direct our prayer to THEE, and look up: We will look up to THEE as the great source of all being, blessedness, and hope. In humble prayer we will make penitent confession of all our sins. We acknowledge the vile depravity of our hearts; our numberless transgressions. Our transgressions have been attended with circumstances of aggravated guilt. Truly they are great. They are of a crimson dye, & a scarlet colour. Justly might thou drive us from thy presence, and cut us off forever: but it is thy glory to forgive. Thou art just and the justifier of all those who repent of their sins and believe in JESUS. We ask pardon, in the name of the great Messiah. We most humbly beseech THEE to grant, that we may be justified and washed and sanctified in his name and by his holy spirit. Oh! turn us from all sin unto THEE. May the principles of every christian grace and amiable virtue be implanted in us; and may we walk in newness of life and new obedience: Oh! may we love

THEE

THEE with all our hearts, and love one another. Cloth us with humbleness of mind, and reconcile our hearts to thy moral government. May we bear, with christian temper, every cross laid in our way ; and, having food and raiment, may we be content. By all the prosperous, and by all the afflictive dispensations of thy hand, make us more meet to partake of the inheritance of the Saints in light.

BLESSED be GOD, who hath done us good all the days of our life. We recognize with humble gratitude the dispensations of thy providence. We thank THEE in particular for the mercies of the last night, and of this morning. We have both laid ourselves down in peace and have slept. We are awake in circumstances of much mercy. Verily it is the LORD, who hath sustained us—praised be his name ! And now, Oh ! grant we may enter on the business of this day in thy fear. May we be preserved from all evil, and do what we do as to THEE ; knowing we must shortly render up an account of all our time, and its various talents. May we daily be laying up a good foundation against the time to come, that we may lay hold on eternal life.

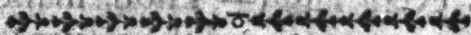
BLESS this family, we beseech thee, O LORD, and suit mercy to the circumstances of every member of it. Implant thy grace in every heart, and help us all to discharge the social duties of our respective ages and stations with good fidelity. May we walk together as christians, and provoke only to love and good works—and, Oh ! when thou makest up thy jewels, may we all be thine.

WITH christian sympathy we would now humbly present, before the throne of Heaven's mercy,

ALL

ALL the sons and daughters of sorrow and affliction—Oh ! let thy mercies be suited to all their circumstances. We pray for the aged, the sick, the widow, and the fatherless—for the rising & risen generation—for the church—for our civil fathers, especially for our chief magistrate. May he have divine supports, and may every blessing attend him. We humbly pray, O LORD, that peace and righteousness may reign triumphantly every where.

NOW, great *Hearer of prayer*, grant us answers or peace and mercy, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST our LORD, and in his words we say, OUR FATHER, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name ; thy kingdom come ; thy will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven ; give us this day our daily bread ; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us ; and lead us not into temptation ; but deliver us from evil ; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever, and ever. AMEN.



Evening Prayer.

O GREAT, incomprehensible JEHOVAH ! into thy gracious presence we now make our humble approach, as the disciples of JESUS CHRIST ; believing that thou dost hear the prayers and accept the humble praises of thy people thro' his gracious mediation. We come to humble ourselves in thy presence, for all the sins of our whole lives, especially for those of the past day. Much sinful imperfection attends us every day—

We

We humbly and penitently acknowledge that in many things we wholly offend—in all we fall short of our duty. Oh! be not strict to mark our iniquity—enter not into judgment with us, for in thy sight we cannot be justified for any works of righteousness we have done—but O most merciful GOD! justify us freely by thy grace, thro' the redemption there is in CHRIST JESUS. Subdue all the principles of sin in us; and sanctify us wholly. Oh! begin and perfect a work of grace in our hearts—and, being saved from every fatal apostasy, may we receive the end of our faith and patience even the salvation of our souls.

SENSIBLE how prone we are to forget thy mercies, or slightly to mention them unimproved, we now most fervently beg for a thankful heart. May we so offer praise that we may glorify THEE; and so order our conversation that we may see thy salvation. We thank THEE, in particular, for the mercies of the past day. Thy mercies are not only new unto us every morning; but great is thy faithfulness every night—Thou makest the outgoings of the morning, and the returns of the evening, to rejoice.

BLESSED be GOD, the GOD of all mercy, for our continued health—for our daily bread—for the gracious supports and assistances granted us in the cares and labors of the day—and for any success, which may have attended us. Oh! that we may ever maintain a lively sense of thy universal agency—that all things are of GOD—that thy blessing only maketh rich, and addeth no sorrow therewith. We thank THEE for every dear social enjoyment.—Blessed be GOD, who permits us to unite in the devotions of the evening, and to commend

mend ourselves, as a family, to HIS merciful care this night—Thou hast appointed the darkness, as well as the light, for our comfort. Oh! that we may devoutly lay ourselves down in peace, and sleep. Give us ease and rest in its season, and whether living or dying, in the morning, Oh! may we still be with THEE. If spared to the duties of another day, may we begin the day with GOD, and duly offer up the morning sacrifice of prayer and praise.

O GOD! we most humbly beseech THEE to bless the world of mankind, and every one for whom we ought especially to pray. Bless our civil Fathers, and all who minister at thy altar.—Prosper the means of grace, and of christian education. Teach transgressors thy ways, & may sinners be converted unto THEE. Heal the sick & comfort all that mourn. Let thy tender mercies be over all thy works.

THESE humble essays of praise and prayer we now lay at the footstool of thy mercy, hoping and waiting for thy gracious acceptance on account of him, who styles himself the LORD our righteousness, & who is our prevalent advocate with THEE; to HIM, with THEE, O FATHER, and the HOLY GHOST, ONE GOD, be rendered everlasting praises. AMEN.

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*Morning Prayer.*

O THOU, who commandest the morning, and causest the day spring to know his place, look down in mercy upon us, thine unworthy servants, whom thy good providence has brought in-

to a family state, while we endeavour, with reverence, humility, and thankfulness, to look up to thee, and in the name of JESUS CHRIST, present our morning sacrifice.

WE acknowledge it our indispensable duty to worship thee, to love thee with all our heart, to serve thee with all our powers, and to devote to thine honor and glory all that we have. But, children of apostacy, in many things we all *offend* and in all things come short of thy glory. We lament the propensity that is in us to forget and forsake THEE, and the inclination to disobedience, which, with shame, we acknowledge is too natural to us, and which we have indulged in many and various transgressions, to thy dishonour and our own injury.

ENTER not into judgment with us O LORD, be not strict to mark iniquity, for we cannot answer thee for one of a thousand of our offences. Is there not forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption, that thou mayest be had in reverence? O blot out our transgressions, for thy name sake, and remember our sins no more: Behold thy Son our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed whom thou hast given to bear the sins of many, and make intercession for transgressors. Give us right views of his glorious character, offices, and work; and right affections of heart for all the manifold display of thy love and mercy towards our sinful race; and give us grace to answer thy reasonable expectations, in the exercise of that repentance, faith, and now obedience which the gospel enjoins upon us.— Sanctify us by thy truth, adopt us into thy family, make us all subjects of grace and heirs of glory; that

that when CHRIST shall appear, we may be joint heirs with him to an inheritance incorruptible, undefiled, and that shall never fade away.

WE gratefully acknowledge thy goodness heavenly FATHER in the protection and refreshment of the past night; and we humbly ask the continuance of thy protecting care over us this day, that we may go out and come in with safety, and rejoice together in the mercy with which thou surroundest us.

MAY the fear of GOD be continually before our eyes, that we may do our common actions after a godly sort, that we may close the day, in serenity and peace, with an evening sacrifice of prayer and praise.

EXTEND of thy mercy, great PARENT of all, to all for whom we should pray. Bless those that rule over us, and make them thy Ministers to us for good. Bless those that teach us, may they be taught of thee, the afflicted of every description, wilt thou mercifully remember. Let our benefactors be rewarded, and our enemies be forgiven; and may we and ours be accepted in CHRIST JESUS, with whose summary of devotion we would close our prayers, saying, OUR FATHER who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.



*A Prayer Book for the  
Evening Prayer.*

**I**NFINITELY great and most glorious **LORD** **GOD**, of whom, through whom, and to whom are all things, to whom be glory forever. We adore thee as the only proper object of religious homage; and we esteem it no less our privilege, than our duty to call upon thy name.

**BEING** conducted, by thy good providence, thro' the various duties and concerns of the day, and approaching the season for retiring to our repose—we desire to present ourselves, as a family, before **THEE**, and offer unto **THEE** our evening sacrifice. Before we lay ourselves down to sleep, we would, **O LORD**, resign ourselves, and all our concerns into thine hands, with a humble confidence in thy merciful protection, hoping that thou wilt keep us from the terror by night, and from the pestilence that walketh in darkness. May the shadows of the evening that are spread over us, affectingly remind us that the shades of death will overtake us; and may we be excited to a due concern, to prepare for that interesting season, when we must make our bed in the darkness, and our spirits return to **GOD** who gave them.

**BUT**, **O** thou holy and righteous **GOD** where-with shall we appear before thee? We are by nature children of wrath, and in our practice children of disobedience; we may justly tremble for fear of thy displeasure, and acknowledge it would be just with thee to cast us off forever. But **O LORD**, thou delightest in mercy, and hast no pleasure in the death of the wicked. In thine infinite wisdom and compassion, thou hast provided a way, for the pardon and recovery of sinners, that

is honorary to thee, and encouraging to the humble and penitent. THOU hast given thine own SON, to seek and to save that which was lost. We thank THEE for this unspeakable gift, and for that inestimable record which THOU hast given of thy SON.

MAY we duly prize, and profitably search the sacred scriptures. Revering the character—receiving the doctrines—obeying the precepts—imbibing the spirit—and following the example of our dear REDEEMER, may we be cast into the mould of thy word, and of thy mercy be saved by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the HOLY GHOST.

THAT our hearts may be secured before thee in the day of CHRIST's appearing, may thy grace be shed upon us, who are the heads of this family, and descend to the smallest member, that being taught and sanctified of thee, we may be each others comfort now, and joy hereafter. O let none who come of us, or who are connected with us, come short of eternal life.

MAY thy way be known upon earth, thy saving health among all people. Make the Ministers of thy gospel faithful and successful in their work; and let christians of every denomination strengthen their hands and encourage their hearts. Let the christian society to which we belong, be built up in faith, purity and love. Let this neighborhood exhibit the pleasing picture of brethren dwelling together in unity. And as we would have friends, may we shew ourselves friendly. Let thy candle shine on this dwelling, and in thy light and salvation let us always rejoice.

BLESS, we beseech THEE, this land & nation,

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smile upon the administration of our general and respective governments ; may all, who are raised high in office, magnify their office, by a faithful discharge of duty. Remember all the sick, sorrowful, and afflicted, and help us to feel towards them, as being ourselves in the body, liable to their calamities. Be thou the widow's husband, and the orphan's hope, and our reconciled Father in JESUS CHRIST, to whom be rendered everlasting praise. AMEN.

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*Morning Prayer.*

**O** LORD, our heavenly FATHER. The day is thine ; the night also is thine. Thou hast prepared the light and the sun ; thou hast set the borders of the earth ; hast made summer and winter.—We acknowledge thee, as our Creator, and the bestower of all our mercies : and we would now unite our hearts in offering unto thee, a tribute of sincere gratitude ; for it is a good thing to give thanks unto the LORD, to sing unto thy name, O thou MOST HIGH, to shew forth thy loving kindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness, every night.

WE rejoice that thou hast preserved us the last night, and brought us to see the light of this morning, in safety. We have lain ourselves down, and slept, and awoke, because thou, the LORD our GOD, hast sustained us. We praise thee for all the comfortable circumstances, in which we now appear before thee. We bless thee for food and raiment, for the enjoyment of health, and the exercise



ercise of our reason. Thou art good unto us, and we have great reason to speak well of *thy holy name*. Bless the LORD, O our souls, and all within us, praise his name, and forget not any of his mercies.

AND now O LORD, we would commend ourselves to thy kind and righteous providence.— Preserve us from all those injuries, to which we may be exposed, in attending to the common concerns of life. Make us active in the discharge of our various duties. May we do the work of each day in its proper time, as the duty of the day requires; redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Give success to all our lawful endeavours—and wheresoever we are, and whatsoever may be our employment, may we not forget that thou seest us, and will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or bad.

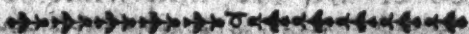
WE desire to be humbled under a sense of our many transgressions. We have sinned, what shall we do unto thee, O thou preserver of men? May we have an affecting sense of our sins, and lothe ourselves for our unworthiness. Give us that Godly sorrow, which worketh repentance unto salvation—and being duly humbled for sin, may we readily embrace that glorious scheme of salvation, which the gospel reveals. May we be possessed of that true faith in the blessed Redeemer, which works by love, purifies the heart, and overcomes the world.

MAY we live under a realizing sense of the truth and importance of religion: and may the grace of GOD, which hath appeared to all men, teach us effectually to live soberly, righteously, and Godly, in the present world. May we be constantly looking for, as we are hastening to, the coming

coming of the great GOD, and our Saviour  
JESUS CHRIST.

PREPARE us we entreat thee, for whatever  
is before us, in life; prepare us for the solemnities  
of a dying hour. May we, then, enjoy a good  
hope thro' grace; a hope that will not make us  
ashamed. And wilt thou, O LORD, receive us,  
hereafter, guilty, and unworthy as we are, into the  
arms of thine everlasting love.

GRANT these our requests, for the sake of  
JESUS CHRIST our blessed Saviour, to whom  
with THEE, and thy HOLY SPIRIT, be ren-  
dered everlasting praise. AMEN.



### *Evening Prayer.*

**O** THOU supreme and eternal Spirit. Thou  
art great, and thy greatness is unsearchable;  
thou art wise, and thy wisdom is past finding out;  
thou art good, and thy tender mercies are over  
all thy works.

WE adore thee as the GOD of the evening and  
the morning. Thou causeth the incoming of the  
one, and the outgoing of the other to rejoice—  
the day is thine, the night, also, is thine. There is  
no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the  
workers of iniquity can hide themselves. The  
darkness and the night are alike unto thee, and the  
night shineth as the day.

WE now present ourselves before thee, and  
would close the day, by an act of religious worship.

WE render praise to thee, O LORD, for the  
salvation and comforts of the past day; that thou  
hast

hast preserved us, in all our ways, and hast been our defence, on our right hand and our left. We rejoice in this opportunity of directing our united prayers unto thee, under circumstances of so much comfort. Bless the LORD, O our souls, and forget not any of his benefits. But we have still greater reason to ascribe blessing to GOD even the Father of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, who hath blessed us, with spiritual blessings, in heavenly things, in CHRIST JESUS. We praise thee for the light of the gospel, the atonement of CHRIST, and the hope, to which we are begotten, by his resurrection from the dead.

WE resign ourselves to thy care this night.— Give us quiet sleep, in the season of it. Suffer us not to be disturbed by the pestilence that walketh in darkness, nor by any midnight out-cry. Wilt thou bring us to the morning, in safety, and direct our rising thoughts to thee, our Benefactor.

WE pray for the free pardon of all our sins, a lively faith in the Mediator, and a mind always prepared to bring forth the fruits of righteousness. Clothe us with humility, as with a garment, and may we possess all those virtues, which belong to the christian character.

MAY we realize the great uncertainty of life and the infinite importance of being prepared for death. May we live soberly, righteously and godly in the present life, looking for that blessed hope and glorious appearing of the great GOD, and our Saviour JESUS CHRIST. Prepare us we entreat thee, for whatever awaits us, in the world; may we endure affliction, as good soldiers of JESUS CHRIST, and so improve every dispensation of thy providence as to promote our spiritual and everlasting



erlasting interest. In the day of prosperity, may we rejoice in the Lord, and in the day of adversity, consider wherefore we are afflicted.

WILT thou, in thy mercy, prepare us for the solemnity of a dying hour? When our flesh and our heart shall fail us, may God be the strength of our heart and our portion forever.

WILT thou lift upon us the light of thy countenance, and give us a well grounded hope of the joys of thy kingdom.

WE pray, O GOD, for all, who are near or dear to us. May they obtain a comfortable portion of the good things of this life, and after death, an inheritance among them that are sanctified.

WE pray for all men, as thou hast commanded us. Give health to the sick; give reason to such as are disordered in mind; supply the poor and destitute with the comforts of life, and grant religious consolation to such as are sorrowing for sin.

WILT thou, in thy great mercy, bless the land, in which we live, make it IMMANUEL's land; a mountain of holiness and a dwelling place of righteousness;—that our peace may be as a river, may our righteousness be as the waves of the sea.—Delight in the prosperity of this town—pour out thy spirit on thy people and thy blessing on their offspring. Build up thy church in the most holy faith, and bless thy servant who ministers to us in holy things: may he ever approve himself by diligence, prudence and fidelity, and be an instrument of advancing the kingdom of CHRIST, amongst us.—We pray for the world in general—send thy light and thy truth throughout the earth,—may all know thee, from the least, to the greatest. At the name of JESUS, may every knee bow

bow, and may every tongue confess: that he is LORD to the glory of GOD the FATHER. We ask and offer all, in the prevailing name of JESUS CHRIST—to whom be honor, glory and praise, forever and ever. AMEN.



*Morning Prayer.*

**G**REAT and glorious JEHOYAH, the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise GOD.

WE adore THEE, as a being possessed of every infinite and amiable perfection, who art worthy to receive honor and glory, praise and thanksgiving, from angels and from men. We believe it to be our duty, and we esteem it to be our highest privilege, to draw near to GOD in social worship, and by prayer and supplication, together with thanksgiving to make known unto him our wants and requests.

WITH reverence and humility we desire to approach the divine presence this morning, and to address the throne of everlasting mercy in the prevalent name of our Redeemer.

WE call upon our souls and every intellectual faculty to praise GOD for the display which he has made of his perfections in the works of creation, providence and redemption.

WE praise GOD that he has given us an existence among his works.

WE rejoice that the inspiration of the ALMIGHTY hath given us understanding, and that we are favored with such mental powers and capacities,

cities, as render us capable of the knowledge, the service, and everlasting enjoyment of our glorious CREATOR.

WE acknowledge, with gratitude of soul, that in GOD we live, and move, and have our being.—Thou, O LORD! hast been the health of our countenance; thou hast kept our feet from falling, and saved our souls from death. From the divine bounty we have received the necessaries, the conveniences, and the delights of life.

BLESS the LORD, O our souls! and be not unmindful of any of his benefits.

WE praise GOD not only for temporal, but for spiritual blessings.

WE render thanks to the Father of mercies, and the GOD of all grace, that he has had compassion upon, and has redeemed the fallen and sinful race of mankind.

WE praise GOD for the pure and holy life; the excellent and divine instructions, and the wise and sacred institutions of our glorious Redeemer.

BUT we rejoice, especially, that GOD hath sent his Son to be the propitiation of our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.

We bless GOD, that by one offering JESUS CHRIST hath perfected forever them that are sanctified; that he finished transgression, and hath brought in an everlasting righteousness.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful FATHER! we beseech thee to interest us in all the blessings of the new and everlasting covenant, justify us freely of thy grace, through the redemption which is in CHRIST JESUS. Grant unto us the blessedness of those whose transgression is forgiven, and to whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity.

WE



WE pray GOD to liberate us from the power of sin. May our minds be renewed, and our affections spiritualized by the influences of the HOLY GHOST. May we become new creatures in CHRIST JESUS, and be formed to habits of piety and virtue. May we love the LORD our GOD with all our heart, and habitually discharge all the duties of devotion. May we be charitable, kind, and benevolent toward our fellow men, and whatsoever we would that others should do unto us, that may we do unto them.

IN the government of ourselves, may we be directed by the laws of sobriety, temperance and chastity. — Knowing that we have not attained to perfection, may we endeavor to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. May we make our path that of the just, which, as the rising light, shineth more and more unto the perfect day. While we continue upon the earth, may divine grace support us under all trials, and enable us to overcome all temptations. We pray that neither the frowns nor flatteries of this world may fright or allure us from the path of truth and righteousness, or cause us to make ship-wreck of our faith, and hope of salvation; but may we at all times live soberly, righteously and godly. May we have our fruit unto holiness, and may our end be life everlasting.

WE thank thee, merciful FATHER, for the salvation of the past night. Thou hast encircled us in the arms of thy protection, and caused us to sleep in safety. We bless GOD for the light and favors of this morning. We implore the continuance of the divine goodness. To a kind and good providence we commit ourselves this day.

HUMANA

WE

WE would acknowledge GOD in all our ways, and pray that he would direct our steps.

LORD bless this family; establish thy covenant with us, and grant that the voice of health, happiness, and religion may be heard in our dwelling from day to day.

WE would not confine our petitions to ourselves, but would pray for the whole human family. We beseech thee, Father of mercies, to bless our dear friends and relations. To thy compassionate regards we commend the afflicted, the sorrowful, and distressed of mankind.

WE beseech ALMIGHTY GOD to bless our Nation. May we be that happy people whose GOD is the LORD. May our civil fathers be under the gracious guidance of heaven, and the people lead peaceable lives. May the means of religion and education be prospered. May the blessing of GOD rest upon the churches of our LORD JESUS CHRIST, and upon all seminaries of learning. May the seasons of the year be ordered mercifully, and the people under the reception of the divine favors lead grateful and obedient lives. We pray, O LORD our GOD, for the progress of pure and undefiled religion. May superstition, bigotry, enthusiasm and infidelity be destroyed. May that kingdom of GOD, which consists in righteousness, peace, and joy in the HOLY GHOST, be established on the earth.— May CHRIST JESUS the LORD, reign from sea to sea, and from the rivers to the ends of the earth.

WE ask and offer all in the name of the great Mediator, to HIM with the FATHER and the SPIRIT of TRUTH be ascribed praises everlasting.  
AMEN.

Evening Prayer.

**O** THOU most HIGH and HOLY ONE, who inhabitest eternity, thy presence we approach, & prostrate our souls, to present our evening sacrifice of prayer and praise. We adore thee as a GOD, who causest the outgoings of the Morning and Evening to rejoice; who art possessed of every perfection and excellency. We bless THEE for thy goodness and thy tender mercies, which are over all the works of thine hand. In thee we live, move and have our being: from thee we receive every blessing, and to thee are we indebted for every mercy and favor. Thou hast made us, we are thy people, and thou hearest prayer, therefore unto THEE shall all flesh come.

WE come at this time imploring the pardon of our sins, which are many and great; for we have sinned against the greatest, best and wisest of beings; against the clearest light and dearest love; the light of reason, of revelation, and that love which has been shed abroad in and thro' JESUS CHRIST our Saviour. To us belong shame and confusion of face, because of our sins: May we repent, and our repentance be thorough, sincere and lasting. May we hate sin, and look upon it as a most deadly and destructive enemy, that we may flee to CHRIST and find rest to our souls. That we may lay aside every weight, and the sin which most easily belets us, and run with patience the race that is set before us; looking unto JESUS the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despised the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of GOD: that we, forgetting the



the things which are behind, may reach forth to those things which are before, and press toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of GOD in CHRIST JESUS. Oh, remember not against us former sins, nor later transgressions, but visit in love and tender mercy. Take not, we beseech thee, thine HOLY SPIRIT from us, but by it guide us to Heaven and happiness.

DELIGHT to dwell in this house, to bless and prosper this family, and to build it up forever. Remove sickness, pain, every evil, every sin and calamity far from it; and long may it rejoice in the love, fear and service of GOD; yet at all times be prepared to do and suffer his will.

WE thank THEE for the mercies of the day past, that thou hast preserved us from every fatal accident; forgive our sins, sanctify thy providences to our good, and make us duly thankful for every blessing, especially, what most intimately concerns the good of our souls, and the peace and welfare of the Redeemer's kingdom upon earth.

TAKE us under thy care and charge this night; grant us quiet and refreshing rest in sleep, and in the morning, may we awake, early, in health, rejoicing in thy salvation, and fitted and prepared for all the duties and events of the day. Bless us with all our friends and relations; do good to all who have done good to us, and forgive our enemies. Bless this, with neighbouring towns and churches; revive thine own work in the midst of these years, and bring on a speedy and happy reformation.

BLESS all in authority over us; may they be Men of wisdom and understanding, fearing GOD, and hating covetiousness, and careful to do every duty

duty in their respective stations, as becomes the servants of the most high GOD. Bless the Ministers of thine everlasting gospel, may they be faithful and successful in their labors. Bless all means of learning among us; and may the youth be so educated as to give the most promising hope that the rising generation may be a generation to serve thee. Order, O GOD, the season in much mercy unto us, and crown the year with thine abundant goodness. Send we beseech thee, health, peace and prosperity, and give thy people hearts to improve all thy blessings aright. Bless with this all other nations; command peace upon earth, and may the Jews with all the Gentile nations embrace the christian religion and become faithful to GOD through JESUS CHRIST. May we be prepared for thine approaching holy day, & esteem the Sabbath a delight—may thy Ministers have thine assistance in their preparations for the sanctuary, and thy presence in delivering thy messages; and may we all so improve our Sabbaths as that we may know indeed that they were made for our good. May thy name and praise become glorious throughout the world, and thy kingdom come and thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven. Now unto the KING eternal, immortal, invisible and the only wise GOD, be ascribed praises everlasting.

AMEN.

I

*A Family Prayer for the Morning of  
A Thanksgiving-Day.*

**I**NCOMPREHENSIBLY great & ever glorious  
GOD! In THEE all goodness dwells; and from  
THEE comes down every good and every perfect  
gift. Thy tender mercies are over all thy works.

THE creatures which thou hast made, all wait  
upon THEE, and thou givest them their meat in  
due season: Thou openest thine hand and satis-  
fiest the desires of every living thing. The whole  
creation experiences thy love and bounty.—  
O LORD our GOD, how excellent is thy name  
in all the earth!

IMPRESS our minds, we beseech thee, with  
a due sense of thy being, perfections and provi-  
dence, and may we be stirred up, at this time, to a  
suitable recollection of thy numerous mercies.

THEE we adore, as the fountain of being and  
of happiness, and as the all-wise disposer of all  
things. From THEE, Almighty GOD, we have  
derived our existence, and on THEE we are con-  
tinually dependent. Thy merciful visitations pre-  
serve our spirits, and thy kind providence supplies  
our daily returning wants.

WE would, this morning, offer up to THEE; O  
Thou preserver of men, our united and fervent  
thanks, for the protection of thy providence thro'  
the past night. We have lain down, have slept,  
and awaked, because thou, the LORD, hast sus-  
tained us. It is thou, only, who makest us to  
dwell in safety.

WE rejoice that we live to see the return of this  
anniversary day of thanksgiving, and that we are  
before THEE, at this time, in circumstances of so  
much



much mercy. We adore THEE, as the health of our countenance and our GOD, the length of our days, and the author of all our good things.

ABUNDANT occasion have we, on this day, to utter the memory of thy goodness, and to speak of thy loving kindness: O that our mouths may be opened, and our hearts enlarged, in the celebration of thy praise.

BE in all worshipping assemblies, we beseech thee, this day; and let joy and gladness be heard in them, thanksgiving and the voice of melody. May we, and may thy people throughout this state, so offer praise, as to glorify THEE, and so order our conversation as to see thy salvation.

WE desire, heavenly FATHER, particularly, to recognise thy goodness, in our creation. We are the creatures of thy power, and are fearfully and wonderfully made. Praised be thy name, that thou hast distinguished us, in our creation, from the rest of thy visible works; that thou hast made us rational and moral agents, capable of knowledge and virtue, of intellectual improvements, and immortal happiness.

WE thank thee, kind parent, not only for creating goodness, but for preserving mercy; for the continual support of thy providence, for food and raiment, and for all those outward good things which administer so much to the ease and comfort, to the pleasure and satisfaction of our lives.

ESPECIALLY, and above all, we give thee thanks, most gracious GOD, for those mercies which relate to our redemption from sin and ruin. We praise thy name, for the inestimable gift of thy son, and for all the privileges and blessings we enjoy in and through him. We thank THEE for

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the gospel of peace, for the influences and strivings of thy spirit, for the day and means of grace, for the ministry of thy word, and for the continuance of religious privileges among us, notwithstanding our past misimprovement and unfruitfulness.

WE confess, O LORD, our utter unworthiness of thy favors, and lament before thee, our ingratitude and disobedience. May we be led to sincere repentance, by thy goodness, and excited in future, duly to praise, and wisely to improve all our privileges and blessings.

WE praise thy name, most merciful GOD for the good land in which we dwell, and for all the displays of thy power and goodness, in its protection and prosperity. We thank thee for civil and religious privileges, for literary institutions, and the various means of useful knowledge, with which we are favored.

WE give thee thanks, FATHER OF MERCIES, in a particular manner for those blessings, which thou hast been pleased to bestow upon us, in the course of the present year. Thou hast graciously cared for us; and the year has been crowned with thy goodness. Thou hast not left thyself without witness, in that thou hast done good, given us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness. By the influence and blessing of thy good providence the vallies have been covered with corn, and the little hills have rejoiced on every side, the trees have yielded their fruit, and we have wherewithal, now at the close of the year to come before thee, our bountiful Benefactor, with a meat and a drink-offering. O that the sweet incense of praise might arise this day, from the altar of every heart, and  
come

come up before THEE with acceptance, being perfumed with the meritorious blood of thy Son.

**MOST MERCIFUL GOD**, be pleased to continue to us the privileges and blessings we now enjoy, and give us always occasion to rejoice in the protection and smiles of thy providence. Save us, we beseech THEE, from our sins, and from those desolating judgments which our iniquities deserve. Spare thy people, O GOD, feed thine inheritance, and lift it up forever.

**BLESS** the civil authority over us: Preside, especially, we beseech thee, in the great councils of these **UNITED STATES**. May thy servant, the **PRESIDENT** of the Union, be endued abundantly with thy heavenly grace, and have wisdom, as an angel of GOD, to go in and out, aright, before this people. May all, in subordinate authority, be under thy influence and direction, and may no unhappy division, among rulers or people, interrupt the peace and prosperity of the nation.— Preserve us, O GOD, we intreat thee, from foreign war, and from intestine broils, ; and may no weapon, formed against us, be suffered to prosper.

**AND** now, most merciful **FATHER**, be pleased to look down with a favorable eye, upon us, before THEE ; pardon our sins, afford us the sanctifying influences of thy spirit, and grace to help us in all our times of need.

**GRACIOUSLY** be pleased to dwell with, and bless us, of this family. May the voice of health, prosperity and religion be heard in our dwelling ; and may we, at all times, have abundant occasion to rejoice both in the smiles of thy providence, and in the blessings of thy grace. Confer upon us, we beseech THEE, all those favors which thou seest to be



be needful and best, and enable us to make a suitable improvement of those mercies we enjoy. Establish thy covenant with us, and may we all be interested in thy special favor. Bless us, O GOD of our salvation, and make us blessings in our day, May we be dutiful and useful, in our respective stations and relations in life: and having served thee, and our generation, according to thy will, here on earth, may we be admitted, to join the blessed society above, in those devout exercises and ravishing enjoyments, which constitute the business and the blessedness of heaven.

NOW unto him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will, and who giveth us many things richly to enjoy, to the only wise GOD our SAVIOUR, be glory and dominion, thanksgiving and praise forever. AMEN.

*A Family Prayer for the Evening of  
A Thanksgiving-Day.*

**O** GOD, who hearest prayer, and unto whom all flesh should come: We, thy servants, desire this evening, to present ourselves before THEE, to acknowledge our dependence on thy providence, and to render to thee, our unfeigned thanks, for all thy mercies.

WE praise thy name, Almighty CREATOR, that thou hast called us into being, to enjoy the gifts of thy bounty, and to be the instruments of promoting thy glory, and of doing good to our fellow-men.

SENSIBLE that we are fallen creatures, that  
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we are sinners, and unable to recover and help ourselves, we rejoice that thou hast been pleased, in thy infinite mercy, to lay help on one who is mighty to save. Glory be to GOD in CHRIST, that we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. May we all, by the influences of thy holy word and spirit, be effectually delivered from the dominion and pollution of sin, and brought into the glorious liberty of thy children. May we love THEE, with all our heart, mind and strength, and give unto THEE, the glory due to thy name.

THEE, we adore, as the only living and true GOD; the greatest, the wisest, and the best of beings: Thy name alone is excellent in all the earth.

THOU, O GOD, hast thy happiness in and of thyself, and canst not receive any addition to thine essential glory and blessedness, by the most exalted services of thy creatures. But thou hast been pleased to make it our duty, to pray to, and praise thy name. And we have reason to esteem this, not only a reasonable service, but our privilege and our delight. Truly it is a good thing to give thanks unto thee, and to sing praise unto thy name, O Most High: It is pleasant, and praise is comely.—O That our minds might be raised up to THEE at this time, in humble adoration and praise.

THEE we adore almighty GOD, as the author of all good. We are indebted to THEE, for our existence, and for all our mercies. Thy wisdom, power & goodness have made us rational & intelligent beings: and by the constant and gracious interpositions of thy providence, we are upheld in life, and have many things richly to enjoy.—Praised be thy name, FATHER of mercies, for  
food

food and raiment, and for all the comforts and conveniences of life. Every personal and family enjoyment, every civil and religious blessing cometh from **THEE**, the fountain of goodness. We possess and enjoy no good thing, but what has flowed from thy undeserved bounty.

**IMPRESS** our minds, we beseech thee, heavenly **FATHER**, with a due sense of thy manifold goodness, and of the increased obligations we are under to thee, our daily and bountiful **BENEFactor**,

**WE** praise thy name, particularly, for the mercies of the present year; for the success that has attended our lawful undertakings and pursuits; for the fruitful seasons that have passed over us, for the health, ease and comfort we have enjoyed; for the continuance of our civil and religious privileges, and for the blessing of order, peace and good government.

**WE** thank thee, gracious **GOD**, for the mercies and privileges of the day past; for the opportunity we have had of going to thy house, and of joining thy people in offering up to **THEE**, the sacrifice of thanksgiving. Be pleased, O most merciful **GOD**, to accept the praises, and to hear the supplications that have been presented to thee; and may all our acts of public and private devotion be followed with a blessing.

**GRACIOUSLY** continue to us, we beseech thee, those mercies we enjoy, both public and private, and may we be disposed and enabled, wisely to improve them. May we, and may thy people ever manifest the sincerity of our gratitude to **THEE**, for thy great goodness by cheerfully resigning up ourselves to thy will, and constantly living  
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in obedience to thy commandments. May wisdom, knowledge and virtue be the stability of our times, and the fear of the LORD our treasure.

CONTINUE, we pray THEE, to smile upon the land in which we dwell. May it be a land of light and liberty, of independence, peace and prosperity, and especially, of pure and undefiled religion, to the latest generation. May it be the glory of all lands, and wilt thou delight to dwell among us, and cause thy face to shine upon us.

WE pray for a blessing upon the civil fathers of our country. May our rulers be men, fearing GOD and hating covetousness; may they be wise to discern, and faithful to pursue, the best interests of thy people; and under a wise and equitable administration of government, may we lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty. Bless, we intreat thee, the means of education, with which we are favored. May our sons grow up as plants of renown, and our daughters as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace; and may the beauty of the LORD our GOD be upon us.

MAY it please THEE to prosper the means of grace and to revive thy work in the midst of these years of declension. May the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, and the just be established. Arise, O GOD, thou and the ark of thy strength; let thy priests be clothed with salvation, and thy saints shout aloud for joy.

BLESS the nations and kingdoms of the earth; and be pleased, O thou GOD of all influence and grace, to subdue those lusts and corruptions of the human heart from whence come wars and fightings among men, and dispose contending nations to tranquility.

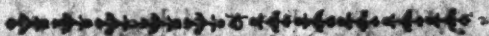
tranquillity. O that the happy time might soon come, when that kingdom of our blessed Saviour which consisteth in righteousness, peace and joy in the HOLY GHOST, shall universally prevail, and thy will be done on earth, as it is done by the Angels in heaven.

MAY it now please THEE, heavenly FATHER, to command thy blessing on us who are before THEE, even life forever more. Give us grace and glory, and withhold no needful good thing from us. May we, of this family, be received into thy special favor, and be made the everlasting monuments of thy mercy. Bless all that are near and dear to us, and all that we should pray for. Reward our benefactors, and forgive our enemies.—Mercifully regard the circumstances of the afflicted and sorrowful, the poor and needy, of the widow and fatherless, of the aged & infirm, of the oppressed and injured, and, in thy great goodness, dispense to them needed blessings.

MAY we thine unworthy servants, who have hitherto had occasion to rejoice in thy goodness, still experience thy merciful regards. From the past instances of thy favor, may we be led to put our trust and confidence in thee, for all that further protection and salvation we need. To the care of thy kind providence, O thou keeper of Israel, would we cheerfully commit ourselves this night. Preserve us, we beseech THEE, from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and give us quiet and refreshing repose by sleep. May no evil come nigh our beds or our dwelling. Bring us, we pray thee, to the light of the morning in peace and safety, and may we be prepared for the duties, and for the events of another day.

BE with us, while here on earth, and so order things respecting us, in thy holy and wise providence, as shall be most for thy glory and our own best good.

FATHER in Heaven, thou art wonderful in counsel and excellent in working. Be pleased, we earnestly beseech THEE, to do more and better for us, than we are able to ask or think; and accept this our evening sacrifice of prayer and praise, through JESUS CHRIST, the only Mediator between GOD and man: To whom with thy DIVINE MAJESTY, and the HOLY SPIRIT, be ascribed, everlasting honor. AMEN.



*A Family Prayer for the Morning of a FAST-DAY.*

**O** THOU Supreme Ruler, KING of KINGS, and LORD of LORDS, who wast, who art, and who wilt be forever, without any variableness, or shadow of turning. Thy name alone is JEHOVAH, and thou art the only proper object of religious worship.

IT becomes us, at all times to approach THEE with reverence and Godly fear, adoring thine infinite excellence, and deeply sensible of our unworthiness. But, LORD, may a peculiarly impressive sense, of thy spotless purity and rectoral holiness, and of our sinfulness and ill deserts, rest upon us this day, as a preparation for the solemn duties to which the day is devoted, by the recommendation of our civil Fathers; and the general consent of thy people. We have laid aside O LORD, the common business of our stations, that we may duly recollect, penitently confess and humble



ble ourselves before **THEE** for all our sins and transgressions—that we may earnestly implore the free and full forgiveness of them, and plead with **THEE** for the blessings of thy providence & grace.

**HELP** us, **O LORD**, to perform this reasonable service, in such a manner that we may meet with thine approbation and obtain thy blessing. Blushing and confusion of face belong unto us, **O LORD**, for we have forsaken the **LORD** that made us, and lightly esteemed the rock of our salvation. We have all sinned, we have done foolishly, from the least to the greatest of us—neglecting our duty—doing that which we ought not, we have added sin, to sin 'till iniquity might prove our ruin. We are chargeable with domestic, personal, and public sins, by which we have added to the load of public guilt, which this day calls aloud for thy vindictive displeasure upon us, and upon thy people with whom we are connected.

**GRANT** unto us, **O LORD**, this morning, and to thy people in general, a spirit of true repentance, that we may be the better prepared for the public humiliations of the day, and help us to confess our sins with such contrition of spirit, and such fixed resolution to forsake them, that we may have ground to encourage ourselves in thy mercy; for though our sins, **O LORD**, are too heavy to be borne, they are not too many or great to be forgiven. For thou art the **LORD GOD** who delightest in mercy—with thee there is forgiveness that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption that thou mayest be had in reverence. Let this be an acceptable day to **THEE** our **GOD**—such a fast as thou hast chosen. May our souls be afflicted and humbled, and bowed down, and we cast away our  
sins

finns with such detestation and abhorrence that we may never take them up again, nor have any thing more to do with idols.

MAY thy presence go with us to the assembly of thy saints, and with the deepest solemnity may we present the sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart. May thy ministering servants be enabled to order the cause of thy people before thee. Fill thou their souls with penitence, and their mouths with arguments ; may they speak thy word without fear, and lift up their voices as trumpets ; and by the manifestation of truth commend themselves to every man's conscience as in the sight of GOD ; and may we be wise and receive instruction.

WE thank THEE, heavenly FATHER, that we are yet in a situation to perform this reasonable service, that thou hast not cast us out of thy vineyard, nor cut us down for our unfruitfulness, may thy long-suffering prove salvation to us, and the goodness of GOD lead us to repentance.

WE thank THEE, O LORD, that thou hast carried us through another winter, and furnished us with those necessities and conveniences that have rendered the dreary season comfortable.— Now the more busy seasons are commencing, wilt thou give our hands strength to labor, and the labor of our hands wilt thou prosper ; may we order all our affairs with discretion, and thine eye be upon us for good, from the beginning of the year to the end of it. Preserve peace in our borders and prosperity in our dwellings. Let not desolating sickness invade us. Withhold not the rains nor the dews of heaven, let the earth yield her increase, and the trees of the field their fruit, and let every devourer be rebuked.

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sins with such detestation and abhorrence that we may never take them up again, nor have any thing more to do with idols.

MAY thy presence go with us to the assembly of thy saints, and with the deepest solemnity may we present the sacrifice of a broken and contrite heart. May thy ministering servants be enabled to order the cause of thy people before thee. Fill thou their souls with penitence, and their mouths with arguments; may they speak thy word without fear, and lift up their voices as trumpets; and by the manifestation of truth commend themselves to every man's conscience as in the sight of GOD; and may we be wise and receive instruction.

WE thank THEE, heavenly FATHER, that we are yet in a situation to perform this reasonable service, that thou hast not cast us out of thy vineyard, nor cut us down for our unfruitfulness, may thy long-suffering prove salvation to us, and the goodness of GOD lead us to repentance.

WE thank THEE, O LORD, that thou hast carried us through another winter, and furnished us with those necessities and conveniences that have rendered the dreary season comfortable.— Now the more busy seasons are commencing, wilt thou give our hands strength to labor, and the labor of our hands wilt thou prosper; may we order all our affairs with discretion, and thine eye be upon us for good, from the beginning of the year to the end of it. Preserve peace in our borders and prosperity in our dwellings. Let not desolating sickness invade us. Withhold not the rains nor the dews of heaven, let the earth yield her increase, and the trees of the field their fruit, and let every devourer be rebuked.

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SMILE upon the administration of government ; let all the Officers, supreme and subordinate, so fulfil the duties of their stations as to answer the design of their respective elevations.— May the citizens, of this highly favored land, duly prize, and rightly exercise their important privileges, doing nothing by prejudice or partiality, and under the administration of the government which thou hast set over us, may we lead peaceable and quiet lives in all Godliness and honesty.

SMILE, we beseech thee, upon all colleges, academies and schools of learning, give to our children a disposition to improve the advantages they enjoy, preserve them from the vanities to which childhood and youth are exposed, and from those youthful lusts which war against the soul.

BLESS thy people, O LORD, in their trade, commerce, navigation and fishery. Let Zebulon rejoice in his goings out, while Issachar rejoices in his tents.

O THOU with whom is the residue of the spirit : Let this year be distinguished by the outpouring of thy spirit, the spreading of the gospel, and the conversion of many souls ; that at the close we may have the most abundant occasion to come before thee with thanksgiving, and celebrate thy praises with a song. These our humiliations and petitions we present to thee, HOLY FATHER, in the name of JESUS CHRIST, to whom, with THEE and thy HOLY SPIRIT, be rendered everlasting praise. NO 61

AMEN.

*A Family Prayer for the Evening of a FAST-DAY.*

**H**OLY and righteous SOVEREIGN, Creator, Preserver and Governor of the world ; who changeſt times and ſeaſons, and haſt ſet proſperity and adverſity the one over againſt the other, to the end that man ſhould find nothing after THEE.

WE, thine unworthy ſervants, connected together by domeſtic ties, deſire to preſent ourſelves before Thee, at the cloſe of this ſolemn day, and in the name of JESUS CHRIST, offer our evening ſacrifice. We thank Thee for the liberty we have had to confeſs our ſins before Thee, and implore the forgivenefs of them. Pardon, O LORD, our deficiencies, and ſprinkle our perſons and our ſervices with the atoning blood of CHRIST. Suffer us not to reſt in this day's ſervices, nor to content ourſelves with profeſſions of ſorrow, and tokens of humiliation : but may HE who is exalted to give repentance to Iſrael, and the remiſſion of ſins ſo ſhed down upon us the ſpirit of habitual repentance, that we may walk humbly and ſoftly before Thee all the days of our lives.

IN many things we all offend, and in all things come ſhort of Thy glory. May our eyes ever be directed to HIM who is the end of the law for righteouſneſs to every one that believeth ; and may our faith and hope be fixed on HIM whoſe blood cleanſeth from all ſin. Give us grace, we beſeech Thee, Moſt gracious GOD, to keep, the reſolutions we have made this day ; and may we teſtify the ſincerity of our hearts by avoiding thoſe ſins we have confeſſed, and performing thoſe duties, whoſe omiſſion we have lamented.

ACCEPT the humiliations of thy people, this day, ſend answers of peace to their humble ſupplications : but, let none of us ever think, that by ſuch days ſervice, we make compensation for paſt tranſgreſſions, or obtain diſpenſation to continue in ſin. Let us all realize that by ſuch days privileges we are laid under higher obligation to keep ourſelves from our iniquity, and bring forth the fruits of righteouſneſs which are by JESUS CHRIST to the praiſe and glory of GOD.

O MAY thy grace be ſufficient for us, to guide, guard and ſanctify us ; and may thy ſtrength be made perfect in our weakneſs. May thy word this day diſpenſed, prove a  
favor



favor of life unto life, and not of death unto death ; not the hearts or hands of thy faithful servants fail would renewedly plead with Thee, for public, social, personal blessings. Most graciously dwell in our nation ; guide all the affairs of government, and meet to overrule them. Pour out a spirit of council, understanding, and of thy true fear upon all our rulers. Maintain our officers peace, and our exactors righteousness : put away error, infidelity, immorality and impiety, and may thy mercy be stayed by the execution of judgment. Avert the tokens of thy displeasure, and shield us from deserved punishment.

MERCIFULLY order the seasons of the year, may they be healthful and fruitful, and crowned with thy goodness. Ever let thy candle shine upon this dwelling, that thy light we may see light, and may we live together in the together of the grace of life, that our prayers be not hindered. May the revolving seasons remind us of the flight of our days ; with great seriousness, may we frequently contemplating their end, and while we necessarily labor for the meat that perisheth, let us not neglect that which endureth to everlasting life ; but be laying up treasure in heaven, whither CHRIST is gone to prepare mansions for his people ; for those mansions may we be prepared, and in the end of our days receive the end of our journey, the salvation of our souls.

TO thy protecting care we commend all that we do this night, shield us from danger, and refresh us with thy repose ; and awaken us in thy goodness.

THIS our evening sacrifice we offer in the name of JESUS CHRIST, for whom we thank Thee, in whom we hope to be found, and to whom, with the FATHER and the HOLY SPIRIT, be rendered everlasting praises.

I NO 61  
AMEN.

*A Family Prayer in time of Affliction.*

**O** THOU FORMER of our bodies, FATHER of our spirits, and DISPOSER of all our circumstances. In THEE we live, move, and have our being. All our springs are in THEE, all our comforts are derived from THEE, and our afflictions are under thy control. There is no evil in the city, there is no evil in a family, but Thou LORD hast done it.

WE desire to adore thy universal and particular providence, and to believe that though clouds and darkness are round about THEE, yet justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne, and mercy and truth go before thy face. We thank THEE for the liberty of access we have to the throne of grace, in the name of JESUS CHRIST, and for the special encouragement given us to draw near in the times of our anxiety and tribulation. We rejoice that our great HIGH PRIEST, who is passed into the heavens, as our Advocate and Intercessor, is touched with a feeling of our infirmities, and knows how to succour them that are tempted.

DEAR REDEEMER, remember us in this day of affliction, and let thy grace be sufficient for us; now trouble is near, be not THOU afar off. Instruct us out of thy law, whilst Thou chastenest us with the rod of thy hand, and let the fruit of thy discipline be our spiritual improvement.

THOU LORD hast brought us into a family state, and granted us many family and social comforts, but we confess we have greatly abused thy favors, and been shamefully insensible of our obligations to THEE, we have been presumptuous and self-confident; in our prosperity have thought we should never be moved, and because we have had so few changes, we have too much forsaken thy fear, and neglected our duty. THOU LORD art righteous in this chastening visitation. We would justify Thee, and condemn ourselves, acknowledging that it is of thy mercies, that we are not consumed and because thy tender compassions fail not. Help us, O LORD, individually, and as a family, to demean ourselves suitably under thy rebukes, and neither despise thy chastening, nor faint under it, but may we glorify THEE and comfort one another.

*If it be Sickness, use the following*  
 [WILL it please THEE, O HEAVEN  
 mercifully to regard the sick member  
 the progress of the disease, and in mer-  
 port the afflicted subject in body and in  
 blest means for their recovery, and pro-  
 vor in which we should so much rejoice  
 fore thou contendest with us, and enable  
 and him that hath appointed it, and to  
 ing of our iniquity. Let the particular  
 bered with covenant mercy, and by the  
 under thy merciful hand, let the mind be  
 heart be sanctified. Prepare us all for  
 must be called to have our circle brok-  
 lessened, do Thou effectually teach us a  
 that we may be still, and know that THOU  
 the health of the other members of the  
 in thy fight, and let us hear, and fear  
 LORD.]

*If Death, omit the preceding and use the following*

[O SOVEREIGN LORD of life !  
 which Thou has made upon us, and en-  
 ourselves suitably under this heavy stroke  
 and our meditations, into a right train,  
 under this fresh and affecting proof of  
 race, and the dreadful effect of sin, to h-  
 ceedingly for our iniquities, and adore  
 es our enjoyments to wither, and spread  
 our path. But blessed be thy name, O  
 mourn and are in heaviness, we mourn  
 have no hope, the wages of sin is de-  
 GOD is eternal life thro' JESUS CHR-  
 WE thank THEE, O FATHER of  
 unspeakable gift, the gift of thy SON,  
 immortality are brought to light, who h-  
 and him that had the power of death  
 and who is the author of eternal salvari-  
 obey him. May this fresh evidence of  
 life and its enjoyments, loosen our attach-  
 excite us to seek more earnestly the KI-  
 and the righteousness thereof ; to se-



HEAVENLY PHYSICIAN, member of the family. Stay in mercy rebuke it. Support and in mind, direct to and prepare us all for a faithful rejoice. Shew us where enable us to hear the rod and to accept the chastening particular sufferer be remembered by the sickness of the body, mind be renewed, and the will for thy will, and if we be broken, and our number in us a lesson of submission; that THOU art GOD; Let of the family be precious and fear, and turn to the

and use the following.

of life! sanctify the breach and enable us to behave by stroke: direct our tears, train, and give us grace of of the apostacy of our sin, to humble ourselves exult in the justice that causes spreads such darkness in me, O LORD, while we mourn not as those who is death, but the gift of CHRIST our LORD. R of mercies, for thine SON, by whom life and who has destroyed death, death, that is the Devil; salvation to all them that cease of the uncertainty of attachment to them, and the KINGDOM of GOD to set our affections on things

things above, and not on things on the earth. And O HEAVENLY FATHER, under the discipline of thy providence, and the sanctifying operations of thy spirit, may we be prepared for our own departure, and a happy union with the general assembly, and church of the first born whose names are written in heaven, who incessantly praise and adore thy glorious Majesty.]

*If it be any kind of affliction different from sickness or death, omit the two former paragraphs, and use the following.*

[SANCTIFY to us all, but especially to those that are more particularly interested, the scene of trial with which THOU art exercising us. Give us that wisdom which is profitable to direct us. Enable us at all times to govern our spirits, and leave us not to speak unadvisedly with our lips. THOU O LORD, canst bring light out of darkness, order out of confusion, and good out of evil. Grant we may see, in the course of thy wonder-working providence, that those things which now appear to be against us, are merciful visitations of thine hand, which shall eventually yield to us the peaceable fruits of righteousness, we being suitably exercised thereby. O let tribulation work patience, and patience experience, and experience hope, the love of GOD being shed abroad in our hearts by the HOLY GHOST.]

*Whatever the affliction, close the Prayer with the following.*

AND now, HEAVENLY FATHER, we would humbly refer ourselves and all our concerns to THEE, and commit them to thy keeping, rejoicing in hope, that though in this world we have tribulation, in THEE we shall have peace; and that being conducted by thy good providence through the changes of life, THOU wilt be mercifully with us in the interesting change of death, and conduct us safely to those blessed abodes from whence sorrow and sighing flee away, where none of the inhabitants shall say they are sick, nor any need sympathy or compassion, where glory, honour, thanksgiving and praise, will be incessantly ascribed to FATHER, SON and HOLY GHOST forever.

AMEN.

*A Prayer for a Family under the receipt of Family Mercies.*

**O** THOU FATHER of all the families of the earth, who furroundest us with thy loving kindness, crownest our lives with favor, and art now laying us under fresh obligations to fear and serve THEE, to love and rejoice in THEE.

IT is a good thing to give thanks, and praise THY name, to shew forth THY loving kindness in the morning, and THY faithfulness at night. We have always reason to speak well of thy name : but thou art at this time giving us special occasion to celebrate thy praise. May a lively sense of gratitude animate our domestic worship, and every heart, with conscious sincerity say, What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits, and with equal sincerity may every one take the cup of salvation, and call upon THY name.

WE thank THEE for that glorious way of intercourse between heaven and earth, which Thou hast opened by a MEDIATOR. That through him Thou canst consistently bestow favours upon thine unworthy offspring, and accept their offerings, for his sake. We rejoice that it hath pleased THEE that in him all fulness should dwell, in whom dwells the fulness of the GODHEAD bodily : and that of his fulness we have continually received, and are continually receiving, mercies and salvations, personal and domestic, against the force of great unworthiness.

WE have reason to lament, and be humbled, that we have been so little affected with thy mercies ; so little thankful for thy benefits. That they have excited no more the spirit of repentance, and produced in us no more habitual obedience. May this fresh token of thy care and kindness, this new experience of thy goodness, awaken us from our lethargy, open the sources of sincere penitence and thankfulness, and excite us to abound in the fruits of righteousness, which are by JESUS CHRIST, to the praise and glory of GOD.

THOU hast delivered in the time of trouble, and removed our anxiety by putting songs of joy and salvation into our lips. Help us to walk before Thee, in the land of the living. Both riches and honors come of THEE, peace  
and



and prosperity are thy gift; Thou givest families as a flock, preservest at home and abroad, givest our hands strength to labor, and the labor of our hands doth thou prosper. Let not our prosperity, be the prosperity of fools, that shall destroy us, neither let us be so taken up with the good things of the world as to forget the author of them, nor vainly think we are so full that we need come no more to THEE.

LET us never be so pleased with our situation and circumstances in this world, as to take up with it as our portion, but may we use it and not abuse it, and know that the fashion of it is passing away, and that we are passing away with it.

MAY we seek thy favor as our life, and set our affection on things above, and not on things on the earth, and lay up treasure in heaven, that our hearts may be there also. Let not our prosperity be abused to the purposes of pride, vanity or dissipation; let us not shut our ears to the cries of the destitute, nor forget that many are in pain, sorrow, and sufferings, while we are rejoicing in thy bounties. May we be ready to distribute, willing to communicate, doing good to all, as we have opportunity, especially to those who are of the household of faith. And while we of this family rejoice together and receive the congratulations of our friends and acquaintance, may all around us have occasion to praise, and learn to trust in THEE.

THIS our offering of praise and thanksgiving we desire to present to THEE, O FATHER of mercies, in the name of JESUS CHRIST, by whose incense may it be perfumed and rendered acceptable, and glory be given to FATHER, SON and HOLY GHOST forever. AMEN.



*A Prayer for a Family in a time of Public Calamity.*

**O** THOU, who rulest without control in the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of earth: before whom angels bow and devils tremble. Thou givest not account of thy ways to men; nor may any say unto THEE, with a spirit of censuring inquiry, what doest thou? Tho' thou coverest thyself with light as with a garment, yet as to us thou makest darkness thy pavilion round about, by terrible



rible things in righteousness dost Thou plead with men, and makest thyself known by the judgments which thou executest.

LET our minds, we beseech Thee, O LORD, be suitably solemnized, by the threatening aspects of thy providence, and our hearts be deeply affected with the awful chastenings of thy hand, and in this day of adversity, may we of this family, and thy people in general, be awakened to the most serious consideration.

WE lament, O LORD, the malignity of sin, and the awfully extensive effects of our apostacy to every part of this world. It has not only given strength and perverseness to those lusts and passions of the human heart, which produce wars and fightings; but it has rendered our earth barren, loaded our atmosphere with pestilence and death, and filled every corner of the world with sighs and tears. But, O LORD, Thou hast all beings, and all events subject to thy control; Thou formest the light and createst darkness, Thou makest peace and createst evil, Thou the LORD doest all these things. Affliction does not come from the dust, neither does trouble spring out of the ground, nor is there any evil in the city; but by thy permission.

*[If the calamity be War, then use the following.]*

HELP us O LORD to exercise suitable affections of soul in our present unhappy and threatening circumstances.—Thou hast permitted enemies to rise up against, to seek our hurt, and disturb our peaceable enjoyment of this good land which thou hast given us. Our hearts are pained within us at the sound of the trumpet and the alarm of war.

WE acknowledge, O LORD, that we have forfeited all our mercies into thine hands and deserve thy severest rebukes—but what cause have we given to our enemies to justify their indignation? Judge between us and our adversaries, O THOU GOVERNOR among the nations, and direct us in defending our righteous cause. Especially give wisdom to those who are entrusted with the management of the great affairs of the nation, may they be directed of THEE, in the duties of their stations, at such a time as this. May integrity and uprightness preserve them, and wisdom be better to them than weapons of war. Dispose our enemies to reasonable terms of accommodation, and may our ways be so directed to please THEE, that our ene-  
mies

mies shall be made to be at peace with us. For, O LORD, we deprecate the effusion of human blood, and sincerely pray that thou wouldest scatter the people that *delight* in war.

BUT, O LORD, if thou seeest it necessary farther to chastise us, and to continue us under this awful calamity, preserve us from dissensions, animosities, and divisions among ourselves; unite the hearts of this people as one man, inspire them with firmness, magnanimity & patience: Form our generals for counsel and for action; go forth with our armies; teach their hands to war, and their fingers to fight; that they may play the man for their people in the defence of their invaluable privileges; and do THOU, O LORD cover their heads in the day of battle, crown them with victory, and make their enemies to be ashamed.

SANCTIFY to us, we beseech THEE, O LORD, the awful calamity, and prevent the usual immoral effects of such a state of things. When the host goeth forth to battle, may we keep ourselves from the accursed thing, and from thy judgments learn righteousness, and may we be prepared for a region of perfect peace; and a society in perfect concord in thy immediate presence above.

*[If the calamity be prevailing mortal Sickness, omit the preceding, and use the following.]*

THOU hast sent forth distressing mortal sickness into the midst of us, and covered the dwellings of thy people with a cloud in thine anger; O LORD, we beseech THEE awaken us by thy visitation, and humble us under these tokens of thy displeasure; many are laid on sick beds, and have wearisome days and nights appointed to them—wilt thou be very nigh to them in their distresses, and let them neither despise thy chastening nor faint under thy rebukes; instruct them out of thy law, while thou chastenest them with this rod of thy providence, and let not their sickness be unto death, but to their edification and improvement in grace and knowledge; check and restrain we beseech THEE, the malignity and mortality of the disease, and let not the slain be any more multiplied among us, prepare us for the merciful removal of this calamity, and let the lives and health of thy people be precious in thy sight.

BUT LORD, if thou seeest it necessary farther to chastize, enable us to glorify THEE in the midst of tribulation, and be very near to such as are appointed unto death, and prepare them

them for the interesting event. Let thy rod and thy staff support them in the dark valley, and their death be to them exceeding gain. Support and comfort the afflicted and bereaved relatives, direct their tears, that they may sorrow after a Godly sort, and so sow in tears that they may reap in joy; and at the last come forth rejoicing, bringing their sheaves with them.

*[If the calamity be Drought, or that which threatens with Scarcity, omit the preceding paragraph and use this.]*

O LORD, thou art withholding the rain of Heaven, and threatening us respecting the fruits of the earth, the necessary supports of man and beast. There are none of the vanities of the Gentiles that can give rain, neither can the heavens cause showers; thou LORD art he alone, who can relieve us, therefore we wait upon THEE, for thou hast made all these things. Hast thou not promised that seed time and harvest, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease, while the earth remaineth; remove we beseech THEE, the present aspects of thy providence that seem to invalidate the truth of this promise, and let the grass grow for the cattle and herbs for the service of men; and in due time let us have a competent ingathering of the fruits of the earth, and have wherewith to come before THEE at the close of the year, with a meet offering and a drink offering.

*[Close the prayer, whenever used, with the following paragraph.]*

AND, O LORD, we beseech THEE, in the midst of all chastening, whether it continue longer or shorter, or however it may terminate—remember us with spiritual blessings, rain down righteousness upon us, begin and carry on a work of reformation, and the more we see of troubles, distresses and disappointments here, the more thankful may we be for that glorious GOSPEL which enables us to look beyond them to a world of perfect felicity, and the more solicitous may we be, to be prepared to join the countless number, in the regions of immortality, in ascribing blessing and honor, thanksgiving and praise to HIM that sitteth on the throne and to the LAMB forever and ever.

AMEN.



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